

DDI-1261-69

1 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of Africa NSCIG, 1 May 1969

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1. Today I accompanied [ ] of Africa Division, DDP to a meeting called by Assistant Secretary Palmer to discuss the sale of aircraft to Libya as outlined in AF/NSC-IG Memorandum No. 13 of 29 April 1969.

2. Thorough discussion produced no significant opposition to the sales program and to the recommendations outlined on page 6 of the State Department attachment to the memorandum. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Newsom, who was present, in seeking guidance (he is under pressure from the Libyans to produce an early response) succeeded in eliciting the decisions of the NSIG:

a. State and DOD representatives will prepare an action paper for approval by the Undersecretaries of State and Defense (apparently to be approached individually within the departments on 2 May).

b. Congressional liaison officers of State and DOD will prepare a talking paper for use in informing appropriate congressmen of the intended action.

c. A cable will be drafted authorizing Ambassador Newsom to tell the Libyans that the US approves the sale of eight F5's and will consider further sales and will consider favorably the sale of eight C-130's by Lockheed.

3. Hal Saunders of the NSC Staff indicated during the meeting that he did not think NSC action was required.

4. A principal concern of the chairman was the problem of selling the program on Capitol Hill. The C-130's somehow began to bulk large as a potential trouble spot--since conceivably they could be used to provide logistical support in an Arab-Israeli conflict and since they will be flown by American crews. Ambassador

OSD and DOS review(s) completed.

Newsom suggested a formula calling for a sale to the Libyan air line, or at least for a sale of three with an option on a later five. The "low profile" formula finally adopted never quite emerged in the meeting and is partly subject to the present status of Lockheed-Libyan negotiations.

5. I was a passive participant throughout the meeting.

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